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# COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

## Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 46/29 of 6 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 31st and 40th meetings, from 12 to 25 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.31-40).

4. In connection with item 54, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27).

(b) Letter dated 28 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/77-S/23486 and Corr.1);

(c) Letter dated 29 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/79-S/23494).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.37

5. On 30 October, Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" (A/C.1/47/L.37), which was later also sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany, Guyana, Honduras, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zaire and Zambia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 24th meeting, on 3 November.

6. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 November, on behalf of the sponsors, the representative of Mexico orally revised draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37, as follows: the eleventh preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "Noting the concerns expressed about the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear testing, as brought out in the Expert Study on Questions Related to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in CD/1167 of 14 August 1992, and, in this context, welcoming the statement of the Russian Federation, when announcing its nuclear-testing moratorium decision on 26 October 1991, which noted, inter alia, the environmental benefits and economic savings to be derived"

was revised to read:

> "Noting the concerns expressed about the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear testing, as brought out in the Expert Study on Questions Related to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in CD/1167 of 14 August 1992, which noted, inter alia, the environmental benefits and economic savings to be derived from a complete ban on nuclear testing".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 136 to 1, with 4 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: China, France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling previous resolutions that identify the complete cessation of nuclear-weapon tests and a comprehensive test ban as one of the priority objectives in the field of disarmament,

Convinced that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,

Welcoming the improved relationship between the Russian Federation and the United States of America and their consequent announcements of significant measures, including unilateral steps, which could signal the reversal of the nuclear-arms race,

Welcoming also the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on 31 July 1991, and the signing of a protocol to this Treaty in which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America undertake to give effect to the Treaty,

Welcoming further the Joint Understanding of 17 June 1992 between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on further reductions in their strategic offensive arms,

Welcoming the decision taken by France to suspend its testing of nuclear weapons for 1992,

Endorsing the call made by France and by the Russian Federation on the other nuclear Powers to suspend their nuclear tests,

Welcoming in addition the recent decision of the United States of America to implement a testing moratorium accompanied by a plan for achieving a multilateral, comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming also the decision of the Russian Federation to extend its earlier announced nuclear-testing moratorium,

Convinced that an end to nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to reduce nuclear arms, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons,

Noting the concerns expressed about the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear testing, as brought out in the Expert Study on Questions Related to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in CD/1167 of 14 August 1992, which noted, inter alia, the environmental benefits and economic savings to be derived from a complete ban on nuclear testing,

Convinced also that the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States,

Taking into account the undertakings by the original parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space

and under Water 2/ to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, and also noting the reiteration of this commitment in the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 3/

Noting with satisfaction the work being undertaken within the Conference on Disarmament by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, and, in this context, welcoming the results of the second technical test concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data, which will permit the system to be redesigned in the light of this experience,

Recalling that the Amendment Conference of States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water was held in New York from 7 to 18 January 1991,

Expressing its disappointment that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear test ban", despite the improved political climate,

1. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of priority, which would constitute an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation, and which would contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament;

2. Urges, therefore, all States to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all nuclear-test explosions for all time;

3. Urges:

(a) The nuclear-weapon States to agree promptly to appropriate verifiable and militarily significant interim measures, with a view to concluding a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(b) Those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so to adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water;

4. Reaffirms the particular responsibilities of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, and, in this context, urges the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban in 1993;

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2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

3/ Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.

5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, in this context, to intensify its substantive work begun in 1990 on specific and interrelated test-ban issues, including structure and scope and verification and compliance, taking also into account all relevant proposals and future initiatives;

6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament:

(a) To take into account the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, including the experience gained from the technical test concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data, and other relevant initiatives;

(b) To continue efforts to establish, with the widest possible participation, an international seismic monitoring network with a view to developing further a system for the effective monitoring and verification of compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

(c) To investigate other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such a treaty, including on-site inspections, satellite monitoring and an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity;

7. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on progress made, including its recommendations on how the objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee on agenda item 1, entitled "Nuclear test ban", should be carried forward most effectively towards achieving a comprehensive test-ban treaty;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".

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